

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Tomohiro OKUMURA et al.

Serial No. 09/511,398

Filed February 23, 2000

PLASMA PROCESSING METHOD AND APPARATUS



Docket No. 00177/530809

Group Art Unit 1762

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEE FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, applicant requests consideration of [X] the references listed on attached form PTO-1449 and/or [^] the additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A legible copy of each reference listed on form PTO-1449 is enclosed.

1a. [X] This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, or

before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

1b. [] This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance, and thus:

(1) [^] the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, or

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(2) a fee of \$ is enclosed.

1c. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and

a Petition is set forth below in paragraph 5, and a petition fee of \$ is enclosed.

2. It is hereby certified

a. that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or

b. that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. Consideration of the following additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:

a. an English language translation submitted herewith,

b. a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,

c. an English language translation of a foreign patent office search report submitted herewith,

d. the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page 1,

e. the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,

f. the concise explanation set forth below:

5. Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(d), the Commissioner is hereby petitioned to consider the present Information Disclosure Statement. The required petition fee of \$130.00 set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(i)(1) is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Tomohiro OKUMURA et al.

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